United Nations A/C.5/56/SR.33

General Assembly
Fifty-sixth session

Official Records

Distr.: General
7 January 2002

Original: English

Fifth Committee

Summary record of the 33rd meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Friday, 7 December 2001, at 10 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. Effah-Apenteng ..... (Ghana)
Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions: Mr. Mselle

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01-68237 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Agenda item 131: Financing of the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991 (A/56/495 and Corr.1 and Add.1, A/56/501 and A/56/665)

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1. **Mr. Sach** (Director of the Programme Planning and Budget Division), introducing the reports of the Secretary-General, said that the General Assembly, in resolution 55/225A, had decided to biennialize the budget for the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY). In the proposal by the Secretary-General (A/56/495 and Corr.1 and Add.1), the estimated gross appropriation for 2002-2003 would be $256,241,300, with a net amount of $229,787,800. That was equivalent to 13.1 per cent real growth in order to account for the increased pace of activity at the Tribunal, particularly with regard to prosecutions. The estimate provided for the creation of 132 new posts, and included resources to support the approved number of ad litem judges. In resolution 55/226, the General Assembly had also decided to biennialize the budget for the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR). The estimate of the Secretary-General for 2002-2003, after recosting (A/56/497 and Add.1), was $198,523,800 (gross) and $179,015,300 (net). That represented 14 per cent real growth, in order to account for the increased pace of activity, particularly in the area of prosecutions. The appropriation was intended to finance the creation of 101 new posts, although no provision was made for ad litem judges. The Security Council was likely to decide at a later date how many ad litem judges would be required, at which point a supplementary budget request would be submitted.

2. **Mr. Mselle** (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), introducing the reports of the Advisory Committee (A/56/665 and A/56/666), said that the total appropriation proposed by the Secretary-General for the two tribunals amounted to $454.7 million gross for 2002 to 2003. The number of proposed posts was 2,073, including 233 new posts. While the cost of ad litem judges had been included with regard to ICTY, that was not the case for ICTR. The proposals were the first biennial estimates for both Tribunals, the basis for which was explained in the reports of the Secretary-General and the Advisory Committee.

3. The Advisory Committee recommended an appropriation of $249.01 million (gross), including 90 new posts, for ICTY and $196.4 million (gross), including 77 new posts, for ICTR.

4. The reports of the Advisory Committee contained a detailed explanation of the reasons for the recommendations submitted to the General Assembly, and other observations dealt with many aspects of the work of the two Tribunals, such as the presentation of the estimates, performance of the Tribunals, courtroom usage, long-term planning for exit strategy and enforcement of sentences. The Advisory Committee had used a number of factors, including the workload projections in the estimates for the two Tribunals, to make recommendations on posts. The assumptions regarding workload should be carefully monitored in the context of the financial and programme performance report that the Advisory Committee had requested. Meanwhile, in ICTR, for example, the Advisory Committee had recommended that, where appropriate, general temporary staff could be used, should the workload increase beyond the projections used by the Advisory Committee.

5. **Mr. Tilemans** (Belgium), speaking on behalf of the European Union, the associated countries Bulgaria, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia and Turkey, and, in addition, Liechtenstein, said that the proposed budgets under discussion were the first biennial estimates for the two Tribunals and the first to include information of the volume of work and objectives of the expected judicial activity. The European Union welcomed that development, since it should make it possible to provide a more complete and transparent justification of the requested resources. Nevertheless, an annual review should still be carried

out, either internally or externally, to allow for the submission of an annual report on programme and budget performance. It was equally important not to deviate from an established timetable in the fulfilment of the mandate of the Tribunals.

6. The European Union was concerned by the extremely high vacancy rate for the posts already authorized in the two Tribunals, and endorsed the comments made by the Advisory Committee regarding the need to fill vacant posts as quickly as possible. In view of the high vacancy rate, it was difficult to assess the need for new posts accurately. While remarkable progress had been made recently by ICTY, 54 additional posts had been approved only six months previously, and 117 posts had still been vacant three months after that. With some 150 posts unfilled, there was also an extremely high vacancy rate for ICTR. Without prejudice to the decision to be taken by the Security Council on the proposal to establish a team of ad litem judges, the European Union stressed that the first priority was to use to the full the considerable means already available to the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda.

7. The European Union approved the recommendations in the reports of the Advisory Committee, but reserved the right to examine the proposed budgets carefully on their merits. It noted, like the Advisory Committee, that no realistic strategy had been established for the completion of the work of the Tribunals and indicated that at least the phase of preparation of all indictments should be completed by 2004 or 2005.

8. The Fifth Committee should also consider again the reports and observations submitted by the Board of Auditors and the Office of Internal Oversight Services at the fifty-fifth session. The European Union welcomed the progress in many areas, such as courtroom usage in ICTY and compliance with accounting rules by ICTR, but it would appreciate further clarification on the subjects examined by the monitoring bodies. While the measures taken by ICTR to prevent abuses in fee-sharing were also commendable, the European Union noted that as yet no results were apparent. It expected the Board of Auditors to examine that issue in accordance with the recommendations of the Advisory Committee.

9. **Mr. Duval** (Canada), speaking also on behalf of Australia and New Zealand, said that the reports of the Advisory Committee on the budget for the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (A/56/665) and on the financing of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (A/56/666) contained a wealth of valuable information. The late issue of those reports was disappointing.

10. Australia, Canada and New Zealand were among the strongest supporters of the Tribunals and demonstrated that commitment by paying their assessed contributions in full, on time and without conditions. He noted, however, that outstanding contributions to the budgets of the Tribunals currently exceeded $47 million and urged all Member States which had not yet done so to pay their assessed contributions at the earliest opportunity.

11. He welcomed the changes made in ICTY to improve efficiency and increase capacity, including the introduction of the use of ad litem judges. While in the short term those changes would raise costs, in the long term the resulting increase in capacity would produce major cost savings, as well as ensuring that the important work of the Tribunal was completed sooner rather than later.

12. The workload indicators for ICTR pointed to significant underperformance in a number of areas. He was pleased to note, however, that, according to a recent update, the pace of work had accelerated and the number of accused on trial in 2001 had increased to 17. He also welcomed the increased focus on judicial activities, although the frequency and amount of extrajudicial activity in both Tribunals remained a cause for concern.

13. It was critical that the Tribunals should continue to adopt innovative solutions to managing costs and to improve efficiency wherever possible. He therefore welcomed the recent management review of ICTR and would like more information about the review and its impact.

14. High vacancy rates continued to plague ICTR, and the experiment with two-year contracts did not appear to have produced the desired results. He noted, in that connection, the Advisory Committee's recommendations in paragraphs 38 and 39 of its report (A/56/666). While the Advisory Committee reiterated its view, in paragraph 16, that it would not be possible to accurately determine requirements for additional personnel in the Tribunal until vacancies had been considerably reduced, it recommended approval of all

but 24 of the 101 new posts requested. He would welcome clarification of that apparent contradiction. Immediate steps should be taken, with the assistance of Headquarters, to fill the posts of Deputy Prosecutor and Chief of Prosecution, both of which had been vacant for an extended period with the result that the implementation of the vital work of the Office of the Prosecutor had been hindered.

15. He welcomed the steps taken in ICTR to improve the management, monitoring and control of the legal aid system. He regretted, however, that the information provided to the Advisory Committee had not been sufficient for it to form an opinion as to the adequacy of those measures. He therefore supported the Advisory Committee's request that a special evaluation should be carried out by the Board of Auditors.

16. Noting that the Prosecutor planned to complete all new investigations by the end of 2004 and to present the last indictments by the end of 2005, he urged her to set a target date for the completion of first instance trials, as she had done for ICTY. There was also a need for an achievable strategy for the completion of the work of both Tribunals.

17. The Tribunals were seeking additional resources, notwithstanding their already significant budgets. Given their management and performance track records, there was a strong case for close scrutiny at regular intervals by the appropriate United Nations oversight bodies. He understood that the comprehensive report requested by ACABQ on the implementation of the recommendations of the Expert Group to Conduct a Review of the Effective Operation and Functioning of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia and the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda was to be submitted to the General Assembly for consideration in May 2002. The question of an ongoing oversight mechanism should be addressed by the Committee when it considered that report.

18. The delegations of Australia, Canada and New Zealand believed that the Tribunals played a very important role in the international community's efforts to uphold international humanitarian law by replacing the culture of impunity with a culture of accountability. While they remained committed to ensuring that adequate resources were provided for the Tribunals, they saw areas that should be more efficiently and effectively managed. They looked forward to discussing those issues in the informal consultations on the items.

19. **Mr. Iossifov** (Russian Federation) said that, since the mandates of the two Tribunals were coming to an end, it was becoming more difficult to justify their costs. The proposed budgets should therefore be subjected to tighter scrutiny. With regard to ICTY, the proposed increase in staffing costs was justified in the report of the Secretary-General by the need to step up the pace of activities at a crucial time for the Tribunal. However, the high vacancy rate made such justification questionable, and suggested that the resources that had already been approved could suffice to finance new posts.

20. There was no clear strategy for finishing the work of the Tribunals on schedule. It was also unclear how ICTY had responded to recommendations on how to make better use of its existing resources. The requested new posts and functions for the Office of the Prosecutor were not strictly within the mandate of the ICTY, and such attempts to exceed the mandate would undoubtedly have financial implications. His delegation agreed with the Advisory Committee that the estimates for both Tribunals were too high. However, it was prepared to look at other ways of reducing the figures proposed by the Secretary-General. He expressed support for the idea of an interim report on programme aspects and the use of existing resources.

21. **Mr. Zhou** Qiangwu (China) drew attention to the importance of timely reports. The late issue of the report by the Secretary-General had in turn delayed the report by the Advisory Committee, which had become available only a few days before the meeting. Recalling General Assembly resolution 54/239, paragraph 3, which requested reports on the financing of ICTY to be submitted by 1 October, he asked for an explanation of the lateness of the report.

22. The proposed budget for ICTY represented an increase of 15.5 per cent in relation to the previous period. While he appreciated the efforts of the Secretary-General to increase the trial capacity of ICTY, efficiency gains had not been proportional to the rising budgetary requirements. He supported the view of the Advisory Committee, in paragraph 8 of its report, concerning the effective utilization of current resources. In particular, the justification for an additional 132 posts was unconvincing, given current

vacancy levels. In annex VII, paragraph 2, of document A/56/495/Add.1, the Secretary-General had referred to the assignment of 97 gratis personnel to ICTY. He asked how they had been selected, from which countries they had come, and whether the duration of their work had been consistent with the six-month contractual basis proposed by the Secretary-General. With regard to paragraph 3 of the same annex, he asked what was the legislative mandate for the assignment of 40 interns to the Office of the Prosecutor, the Chambers and the Registry. The Secretary-General should provide a breakdown of all current budgetary posts and gratis personnel, giving details of their country of origin, title and level of seniority. He understood that the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) was conducting a detailed study into fee-splitting arrangements between counsel and detainees, and requested the latest details of its findings. China supported efforts to refer a number of non-critical cases, such as those involving low-ranking officials or those with a minimum of military or political implications, to national courts. That would reduce the pressure on ICTY and expedite the remaining trials.

23. His delegation hoped that ICTR would enhance its efficiency in trial hearings and thereby complete its work as soon as possible.

24. **Mr. Sach** (Director of the Programme Planning and Budget Division), acknowledging that vacancy rates for the Tribunals had been above average, said that it was partly a reflection of the rapid rate of growth of ICTY and ICTR. While consistent progress had been made in the recruitment of new staff, a certain amount of time was always necessary to fill the increasing number of posts created. As an indication of the pace of recruitment, while there had been 117 vacancies at ICTY only three months before, by the end of October, that figure had fallen to 101. A normal vacancy rate of around 5 per cent was expected some time during the course of the period from 2002 to 2003. With regard to ICTR, the problem was more serious, and the Secretary-General continued to consider ways of reducing the vacancy rate. Should the vacancy numbers fall below the projected rate of 20 per cent during the biennial period, further budgetary allocations would be requested in the context of the performance report. He fully agreed with comments made regarding the necessity of a performance report, and assured delegations that there would be adequate oversight of the performance and needs of the Tribunals.

25. In response to criticism concerning the late issue of reports, he said that the review process had taken longer than anticipated, partly owing to the technical changes to computer systems relating to the switch to a biennial budget. He assured the Committee that no more could have been done to speed up the review without sacrificing quality. In response to the request by the representative of China, he would provide the corresponding breakdown of gratis personnel and budget posts in the context of the informal consultations.

Agenda item 137: Financing of the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (A/56/610 and A/56/661)

26. **Mr. Mselle** (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) introduced the Advisory Committee's report (A/56/661) on the Secretary-General's proposals for the financing of the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE) (A/56/610). The Secretary-General was requesting an amount of $208.9 million gross for the period from 1 July 2001 to 30 June 2002. In paragraph 28 of its report, the Advisory Committee recommended the appropriation and assessment of $198.4 million gross for that period, inclusive of the $90 million gross already appropriated and assessed by the General Assembly for the period from 1 July to 31 December 2001.

Agenda item 123: Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003 (*continued*)

Programme budget implications of draft resolution B contained in document A/56/21/Add.1: United Nations public information policies and activities (A/C.5/56/20)

27. **Mr. Mselle** (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that, under the draft resolution in question, the General Assembly would, inter alia, decide to expand the Organization's international radio broadcasting capacity in the six official languages, building on the success of the pilot project, and would request the Secretary-General to report on implementation, including the estimated number of

listeners reached, to the Committee on Information at its twenty-fifth session so that that Committee could decide on future action.

28. No provision for the continuation of the radio broadcasting project had been included in the proposed programme budget for 2002-2003, pending a review and decision thereon by the General Assembly with regard to the pilot project. The Secretary-General had submitted the final report on the project's implementation to the Committee on Information (A/AC.198/2001/10). The statement of programme budget implications indicated that adoption of the draft resolution would give rise to additional requirements under section 26, Public information, of $1,682,000 for new temporary posts, $390,000 for individual contracts and $300,000 for other related costs, including $50,000 for the technical maintenance of equipment. The Advisory Committee recommended that such expenses should be monitored with a view to achieving savings in the future.

29. Representatives of the Secretary-General had briefed the Advisory Committee on efforts to establish and increase listenership. The Advisory Committee recommended that the programme should target both developing and developed countries and that consideration should be given to how targets might be refocused to produce the maximum desired impact and to increase distribution to countries where relatively few stations carried the programme. The Advisory Committee recommended that the Fifth Committee should inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt draft resolution B contained in document A/56/21/Add.1, expenditures would arise not exceeding $2,372,000 under section 26, Public information, and $308,000 under section 32, Staff assessment, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003, and that additional appropriations would be considered by the General Assembly in accordance with the procedures set out in its resolutions 41/213 and 42/211 for the use and operation of the contingency fund.

30. **Mr. Mirmohammad** (Islamic Republic of Iran), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that those countries attached great importance to the continuation of the international radio broadcasting project and supported the provision of funds to cover the resource requirements outlined in the Secretary-General's statement (A/C.5/56/20). With respect to paragraph 4 of that statement, the conclusions of the Committee on Information with respect to the content of the radio programmes should be implemented fully.

31. **Mr. Repasch** (United States of America) said that his Government supported the goals of the radio broadcasting project and welcomed the inclusion of an evaluation component (A/C.5/56/20, para. 14), which would enable the Department of Public Information to assess the impact of the endeavour both for its own purposes and for purposes of reporting to Member States. That approach was one of the keys to strengthening the Organization's management, and he supported its application to all United Nations programmes and activities.

32. In the informal consultations on the proposed programme budget for 2002-2003, his delegation had raised some concerns about the Organization's overall approach to public information. The Committee was considering proposals to conduct analyses of the public information programme. It was important to ensure that the Organization's public information mandates from Member States were carried out rationally and effectively. Proposals for new priority activities such as the one under consideration should be accompanied by continuous efforts to identify lower-priority activities that could be curtailed or terminated, in accordance with the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation. He asked whether the Secretariat had considered producing the radio programmes in partnership with other United Nations agencies, possibly on a cost-sharing basis, particularly since the public information provided in radio broadcasts should be placed in the broad context of the activities of the whole United Nations system.

33. **Mr. Elgammal** (Egypt) said that he supported the statement made on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. The General Assembly had previously agreed that radio was one of the most cost-effective and far-reaching means of disseminating information on the United Nations, and the radio broadcasting pilot project had been a success. Accordingly, the Organization's radio broadcasting capacity should be financed on an equal footing with the other means of communication, such as web sites, that were available to the Department of Public Information and funded from the regular budget.

34. **Mr. Orr** (Canada) said that his delegation had already expressed its views on the radio broadcasting project in the Fourth Committee. The statement of programme budget implications reflected a tendency to focus on marginal considerations instead of on the Organization's core capacity. For example, resources were being requested for nine additional radio producers and associate producers, but no information was given on the existing number of producers. The Committee's deliberations would be greatly facilitated if it had an explanation of the capacity already provided for in the proposed programme budget for 2002-2003. The Organization had carried out the radio broadcasting project within existing resources during the current period, but was requesting additional funds for the coming biennium; he asked what radio broadcasting activities had been deferred from the current biennium. Paragraph 7 of the statement of programme budget implications indicated that 17 new temporary posts were being requested at a cost of $1.6 million, using the standard costs for new posts. He asked whether those posts had been budgeted at a 50-per-cent vacancy rate or 50 per cent of the total cost. That method downplayed the actual total continuing cost of those activities. Lastly, the request for $240,000 for the services of a telecommunications engineer seemed excessive; he would like an explanation of the additional requirements and an indication of the number of existing engineering staff.

35. **Mr. Nakkari** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that the Advisory Committee's reports on the Secretary-General's statements of programme budget implications should have been circulated as official documents. He shared the views expressed by the Iranian delegation on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. Financing should be provided for the development of the Organization's international radio broadcasting capacity, which was a proven success, and that project should become an adequately funded institutional activity of the United Nations.

36. **Mr. Sach** (Director of the Programme Planning and Budget Division) said that the Department of Public Information had not yet pursued the idea of sharing the costs of the radio broadcasting project with other United Nations agencies, but would do so in the future. The proposed activities were not an extension of existing arrangements, but rather a successor arrangement to an ad hoc pilot project that had no continuing financing. As noted in paragraph 26.8 of the proposed programme budget for 2002-2003 (A/56/6), the initial budget proposal had made no provision for the continuation of the radio broadcasting project because the project lacked a mandate for the coming biennium. The adoption of the draft resolution under consideration would provide such a mandate. Further information on the number of existing radio broadcasting staff would be provided in the Committee's informal consultations on the subject.

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.3/56/L.69/Rev.1: Subregional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa (A/C.5/56/22)

37. **Mr. Mselle** (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that, under draft resolution A/C.3/56/L.69/Rev.1, the General Assembly would, inter alia, invite the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to provide appropriate assistance to the Subregional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa to ensure its efficiency and smooth functioning in accordance with General Assembly resolution 55/234. The non-inclusion of resources for the Centre under section 22, Human rights, of the proposed programme budget for 2002-2003 had been without prejudice to such needs as might be demonstrated in the context of the report on activities to establish the Centre to be submitted to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session (A/56/6, para. 22.45); that report had been submitted to the Assembly in document A/56/36/Add.1. For 2000-2001, the Assembly had appropriated a non-recurrent provision of $1 million for the Centre.

38. The Secretary-General estimated that adoption of the draft resolution would give rise to additional requirements of $1 million, under section 22, to continue the current level of support as a subvention. The Advisory Committee recommended that the report referred to in paragraph 4 of the draft resolution should include information on the programme of work of the Centre and related expenditures, as well as steps taken to coordinate with the Department of Political Affairs with respect to matters within its purview.

39. The Advisory Committee recommended that the Fifth Committee should inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt draft resolution A/C.3/56/L.69/Rev.1, expenditures would arise not

exceeding $1 million under section 22, Human rights, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003, and that additional appropriations would be considered by the Assembly in accordance with the procedures set out in its resolutions 41/213 and 42/211 for the use and operation of the contingency fund.

40. **Mr. Ekorong A Dong** (Cameroon) said that the Subregional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa had been established as a subregional office of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in cooperation with the Economic Community of Central African States. A host country agreement had been signed between OHCHR and the Government of Cameroon. His delegation believed that the Centre, as a subregional office of OHCHR, should be funded on a permanent basis from the regular budget of the United Nations. Given the scope of the activities of the Centre and the delicate nature of many of the issues with which it would deal, his delegation considered that the post of Head of Office should be established at the D-1 level, rather than at the P-5 level as proposed. The Centre was to conduct both human rights activities and activities related to democracy. Those activities were equally important, and the posts of Programme Officer on Democracy and Human Rights Officer should therefore be established at the same level, namely, P-4.

41. **Mr. Repasch** (United States of America) said that his delegation supported the promotion of human rights and democracy in Central Africa, the African continent and around the world and was committed to the objectives of the Centre, as outlined in document A/C.5/56/22. However, the statement, in paragraph 3 of that document, that the Committee on Programme and Coordination (CPC), by paragraph 267 of the report on its forty-first session, had recommended that, in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003, resources should be allocated to the Centre was not accurate. In fact, paragraph 267 was contained in the section of the report entitled "Discussion" and thus did not constitute a recommendation. That being the case, he wished to know what the basis for the statement in paragraph 3 of document A/C.5/56/22 had been.

42. It was not clear to him whether the Centre was currently operational, and how it was to be funded. The Advisory Committee recommended that the report to be submitted by the Secretary-General to the fifty-seventh session of the General Assembly on the implementation of draft resolution A/C.3/56/L.69/Rev.1 should include information on the Centre's programme of work. He wondered how the Advisory Committee could have made a recommendation on the programme budget implications of the draft resolution without having seen a programme of work. Noting that no agreement had as yet been reached on the narrative of section 22 (Human rights), he proposed that the Committee should consider the statement of programme budget implications in the informal consultations on that section.

43. **Mr. Orr** (Canada) said that his delegation had joined the consensus on draft resolution A/C.3/56/L.69/Rev.1 in the Third Committee. Regarding the programme budget implications of the draft resolution, the provision of $42,400 each for the General Service posts of Administrative Assistant and Documentalist seemed somewhat high. If the Secretariat filled those posts with locally recruited staff, the resulting cost savings could be used to fund other important items of expenditure, such as fellowships.

44. **Mr. Sach** (Director of the Programme Planning and Budget Division) said that paragraph 3 of document A/C.5/56/22 was poorly formulated. It should have stated that CPC, by paragraph 267 of the report on its forty-first session, had discussed a possible recommendation that, in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003, resources should be allocated to the Centre. He noted that no specific recommendations regarding the Centre had been agreed and that the matter was still before CPC. The provisions for the posts of Administrative Assistant and Documentalist were for two years. He understood that the amount of $42,400 had been arrived at on the basis of salary scales provided by the United Nations Development Programme. However, he would provide further clarification in the informal consultations.

45. **Mr. Mselle** (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the Centre had commenced its activities in March 2001, following the initial establishment phase, as stated in paragraph 14 of document A/56/36/Add.1. While that document covered the activities carried out by the Centre in 2001, no programme of work had as yet been proposed. For that reason, the Advisory Committee had recommended that information on the Centre's programme of work

should be included in the report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session.

46. **Mr. Sach** (Director of the Programme Planning and Budget Division) said that it was precisely because there was no established programme of work that the Administration had not included in section 22 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003 any provision for the Centre. However, document A/56/36/Add.1 did contain an outline of the programme of activities for the Centre in 2002-2003. The additional budgetary requirements detailed in the statement of programme budget implications reflected the resources that would be necessary to carry out those activities.

Programme budget implications of draft decision A/C.2/56/L.6, Office of the President of the Economic and Social Council (A/C.5/56/23)

47. **Mr. Mselle** (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that a policy decision must be taken by the General Assembly, on the basis of a recommendation of the Fifth Committee, before the Advisory Committee could give its opinion on the financial implications of draft decision A/C.2/56/L.6.

48. **Mr. Repasch** (United States of America) said that document A/C.5/56/23 set out two alternative arrangements whereby the Office of the President of the Economic and Social Council could be provided with the means to carry out its important functions: one based on the arrangements for the President of the General Assembly, and the other based on the arrangements for the President of the Security Council. His delegation believed that the latter arrangements would provide the most appropriate model for the President of the Economic and Social Council.

49. **Mr. Mbayu** (Cameroon), noting that the Permanent Representative of Cameroon was the current President of the Economic and Social Council, said that his delegation did not stand to benefit directly, whatever the arrangements made for providing the Office of the President with the means to carry out its functions. The President had raised the issue solely out of his desire to better serve the Council. He was pleased that there was agreement that the Council should be placed on an equal footing with the other principal organs of the United Nations, as called for in the Millennium Declaration. His delegation had no preference as to the model to be adopted; that issue was for the Fifth Committee to decide. He trusted that a decision would be taken and the necessary resources provided at the earliest opportunity.

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.3/56/L.55, Situation of human rights in Myanmar (A/C.5/56/24)

50. **Mr. Mselle** (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the Secretary-General's statement indicated that adoption of draft resolution A/C.3/56/L.55 would give rise to expenditure not exceeding $277,900 and that those requirements would be charged against the provision of $93.7 million for special political missions proposed under section 3, Political affairs, of the proposed programme budget for 2002-2003. The Advisory Committee recommended that the Secretary-General's proposals should be accepted.

Organization of work

51. **The Chairman** drew attention to the Committee's proposed programme of work for the following week, designed to ensure that the Committee could complete its work for the main part of the fifty-sixth session of the General Assembly by the end of the week.

52. **Mr. Elgammal** (Egypt) regretted that so little time had been allotted to consideration of the time-sensitive agenda item "Pattern of conferences", to which his delegation attached great importance. The Group of 77 and China had already rejected the proposal to separate the adoption of the calendar of conferences and meetings from consideration of other issues and he hoped that the Committee would not find itself in a situation where, owing to a lack of time, such an alternative would have to be envisaged.

53. **Mr. Nakkari** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that it was difficult to see how the Committee could complete its work by the end of the following week when so many documents still remained to be considered.

54. **The Chairman** said that the Committee should make full use of the time available to it to focus on the substantive issues. The Bureau would rely on the spirit of accommodation of delegations to expedite the completion of the programme of work.

55. **Ms. Silot Bravo** (Cuba), supported by **Mr. Mbayu** (Cameroon), said that the Committee should temper its optimism with a healthy dose of realism. Small delegations, in particular, could not be expected to work around the clock so that the Committee could complete its work earlier than usual. Those items that could not be completed could be taken up again in the first part of the resumed session of the General Assembly.

56. **Mr. Mirmohammad** (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that the proposed programme of work could be revised to address the concerns that had been raised and to give priority to time-sensitive issues.

57. **The Chairman** said that the Bureau would reconsider the Committee's proposed programme of work in light of the observations that had been made.

The meeting rose at 12.20 p.m.